Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 22 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Thursday 21 Dec 2023 at 16:20 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for changeable and often windy conditions on Friday and over the weekend. Lower confidence on the timing of transition from colder to milder weather during the course of Saturday.

Headline for Friday 22 Dec 2023: Cloudy with sleet, snow at first, rain at lower levels. Then bright spells and scattered showers, snow above 500m, becoming persistent during evening. Very cold and windy.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 22 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)	Sleet	Light snow showers	Light snow showers	Light snow showers	Light snow	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability							
50%	50%	60%	50%	50%	50%	60%	70%

Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Weather: Clear periods and further wintry showers overnight. Rather cloudy later tonight and at first on Friday with more prolonged, heavier sleet or snow above about 700m and rain lower down. This will soon give way to brighter skies and scattered showers later in the morning and during afternoon. The showers will fall as snow above about 500 to 600m, becoming prolonged during evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% improving 40% during morning, then little chance during evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Good visibility between showers with occasional cloud cover about 700 to 900m. Very poor visibility as snow showers come along with more extensive cloud cover lower down the hills, especially at first and again during evening.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	39/49 NW	34/43 NW	30/38 W	39/51 W	35/46 NW	32/42 NW	25/33 W	15/21 W	11/16 S
900	37/47 NW	32/41 NW	28/36 W	37/49 W	33/44 NW	30/40 NW	23/31 W	14/19 W	9/14 S
600	25/35 NW	21/29 NW	19/28 W	26/37 W	23/34 NW	20/30 W	16/24 W	9/14 W	7/11 S
300	9/38 NW	7/31 NW	6/27 W	10/38 NW	10/35 NW	8/31 NW	6/23 W	2/13 NW	2/8 SE
Glen	16/32 NW	12/24 NW	10/21 W	18/34 NW	15/30 NW	13/25 NW	11/21 NW	5/12 NW	4/9 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-3/-12	-3/-12	-2/-10	-1/-10	-2/-12	-2/-11	-3/-10	-3/-9	-3/-8
900	-2/-11	-2/-10	-1/-8	-0/-9	-2/-10	-2/-10	-2/-9	-2/-8	-2/-6
600	1/-6	1/-6	1/-5	2/-5	1/-6	1/-6	0/-5	-0/-4	-0/-3
300	3/-1	3/0	3/0	4/1	3/-0	3/0	2/-0	1/-0	1/-1
Glen	6/2	6/3	6/3	7/3	7/3	6/3	6/3	5/3	4/3
Freezing Level*	700m	700m	800m	800m	600m	700m	600m	600m	600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Very difficult walking conditions due to combination of low temperatures, strong winds and sleet/snow showers. Also tricky underfoot conditions.

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with a period of snow even to low levels at first on Saturday with blizzard conditions on higher ridges and summits. Snow will gradually turn to rain at lower elevations from the south late morning then rain increasingly at all levels later afternoon and evening.

Maximum wind: Fresh southerly winds, veering westerly and strengthening in afternoon, average speeds 2mph increasing 30 to 40mph in afternoon with gusts 50mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance.

Low cloud and visibility: Misty conditions with often very poor visibility and extensive cloud cover well down the hills. This will lead to navigational difficulties.

Temperature: **Glens:** Close to freezing rising to 5 Celsius in afternoon.
At 800m: Minus 2 Celsius rising to plus 5 Celsius by evening.
Freezing level: 300m rising to 700m by afternoon then above summits during evening.

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